

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for considering the present application. In the Office Action dated April 5, 2005, claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 10, 12, and 18 are allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner for a reconsideration.

Claims 1, 3-4, 9-11, 13-15, 17, and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Tadokoro* (5,102,344). Claims 5-8 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tadokoro*. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The present invention is illustrated in Figure 8 of the present application. More specifically, the bottom portion of Figure 8. Claim 1 is directed to a connector cap assembly (110) for mechanically and electrically coupling to a connector (22) having connector contacts. A boot housing (112) is formed of electrical charge dissipative material. The housing (112) is sized to receive the connector (22) therein. The boot housing (112) comprises a floor portion (118) contacting the connector contacts (120). The assembly further includes a retainer (130) positioned on the housing for retaining a ground wire (132) in contact with the housing (112).

Applicants would like to point out that the boot housing is formed of an electrical charge dissipative material, and that the boot housing comprises a floor portion contacting the connector contacts. Thus, because the boot housing includes the floor, the floor is also formed of charge dissipative material. The other significant point is that the *Tadokoro* reference is an electrical connector wherein the present invention is a connector cap assembly. The connector cap assembly of the present invention is to prevent stray voltages from getting into a connector. The *Tadokoro* reference is a connector that is used for electrically connecting two different portions or portions of a circuit together. Thus, the overall goal is significantly different than the two references. The two differing goals is manifested in claim 1 by providing a floor portion that contacts the connector contacts. Thus, the floor portion is used to dissipate any charges therein. Essentially, the floor portion shorts out the contacts. The Examiner points to Fig. 4, which illustrates a floor portion. It appears that the Examiner is pointing to the holder (10) as the floor portion. Applicants admit that the *Tadokoro* reference has an electrically conductive pipe (11). Also, the electrically conductive pipe (11) is electrically coupled to the sheath wires (3) and (6). Sheath wire terminal (16) is electrically coupled to the conductive pipe (11) through the resilient member (19). This goes around the holder (10) because the holder (10) is described as electrically insulating. Applicants respectfully submit that no floor portion formed of an electrical charge dissipative material is taught or suggested. If the holder (10) were formed of charge dissipative material the electrical connection between the contact (16) and the

conductive pipe would not be required. It should be noted that the electrical connection of the wire terminals (16) and (17) with the pipe are described in Col. 4, lines 29-42. Because at least one element of claim 1 is not taught or suggested, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejection of claim 1.

Claim 14 is similar to claim 1 in that the boot housing is formed of electrical charge dissipative material and that the boot housing comprises a floor portion having a plurality of floor contacts contacting the connector contacts. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejection of claim 14.

Claims 2-13 and 15-20 depend from independent claims 1 and 14, respectively. These claims are also believed to be allowable for the same reasons set forth above.

Applicants respectfully believe that all rejections are overcome. Should the Examiner have any further questions or comments, the Examiner is directed to contact the undersigned directly.

Please charge any fees required in the filing of this amendment to deposit account 50-0476.

Respectfully submitted,



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